

House Resolution 322 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Harbin of the 118th, Smith of the 113th, and Burkhalter of the 50th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Continuing Education and Collegiate Sports
2 Programs for Students with Disabilities; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Education's 2005/6 Report Card reported that 12
4 percent or approximately 10,300 of our state's 86,065 students enrolled in grade 12 have a
5 disability such as a physical disability; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia's disabled population continues to rise each year due to war-injured
7 veterans returning from Iraq and elsewhere and other health risk factors; and

8 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Labor, the Georgia Department of Education, and
9 the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia should work together to provide
10 continuing education and team sport collegiate activities for persons with disabilities; and

11 WHEREAS, continuing education, therapeutic, and organized sports programs for
12 individuals with special needs provide our youth with an opportunity to represent their state
13 and country in sporting events, serve as role models, and obtain postsecondary education;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Georgia currently has well organized school and community based programs,
16 like BlazeSports Georgia and the American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, that
17 provide sports and physical activity opportunities for Georgians with disabilities; and

18 WHEREAS, studies show that the physical, mental, and social benefits from participation
19 by individuals with disabilities in sports and physical activity programs are wide accepted;
20 and

1 WHEREAS, it has become necessary for the State of Georgia to explore policies to identify
2 and create opportunities for disabled individuals in Georgia to further assist in their
3 development and societal integration.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
5 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on Continuing Education and
6 Collegiate Sports Programs for Students with Disabilities to be composed of five members
7 of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
8 Representatives and five members of the Senate to be appointed by the President of the
9 Senate. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall
10 each designate a member of the committee who shall serve as cochairpersons of the
11 committee. The committee shall meet at the call of the cochairpersons.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of what
13 alternatives are open to the General Assembly to identify and create opportunities for student
14 athletes with disabilities at the collegiate level and explore the development of pilot
15 programs, recruitment of athletes, and nonprofit and private sector support for different
16 collegiate programs. The committee shall also explore current high school, community, and
17 collegiate sports programs and facilities.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall meet four times at locations
19 throughout the State of Georgia to be determined by the cochairpersons. The members of
20 the committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the
21 Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not
22 be received by any member of the committee for more than four days unless additional days
23 are authorized. The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
24 from the funds appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives. In the event that
25 the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations with suggestions for
26 proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before the convening of the 2008
27 session of the General Assembly at which time the committee shall stand abolished.